

from me.

It is such a real pleasure to be able to write to you - but you are far away except when I make my visits for you to the Blessed Sacrament. I asked our Reverend Mother if my relic crucifix couldn't be blessed, although I knew the answer was "no". But I asked the Sacred Heart and our holy Founder to bless it for me, after all it isn't the satisfaction of knowing that counts, it is the blessing. Was that being bold?

I again asked our Reverend Mother if she wouldn't allow me to make an hour's vigil in our chapel, but she didn't answer me yet. I do have permission to make one in my room, and I shall tomorrow night, the eve of First Friday, unless I have the greater privilege. I may be permitted this since I am alone on this floor. Whatever the answer I shall accept it as God's holy will. Whichever place I make my holy hour you will be especially remembered as it is on your day - Thursday.

Please remember me in your prayers - the knowledge that so many holy souls are praying for me is no little comfort and help. Did I tell you Mrs. Brennan assured me they would not forget me? I am very happy over this.

Union of prayer and sacrifice with Him,
Respectfully,

Sister Mary

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois

November 3, 1942.

Dear Reverend Father:

Thank you for your kind and prompt response to my letter. All my uncertainty is now cleared and I know just what God expects. It's a hard battle but I'll do it for Him no matter what the cost to self. His demands are supplanted by the necessary grace, and I know I can count on Him. Surely, He has proved Himself in no few instances, yet my trust is not always all it should be. Please ask God to grant me a generous measure of His Merciful Love that I may be compassionate and merciful to His most needy and unfaithful ones. From His Sacred Heart alone proceeds all mercy and love, and to Him I look in this my urgent need. I have read your letter only about half a dozen times so far, that I might well imbibe your instructions. At present there seems some little improvement for which I am thankful to my Divine Spouse. Things reached a peak on last Thursday morning at which time I made it definitely clear to Sister A. that she would have to follow her Holy Rule as long as she lives in this house under me. I think I was unduly severe, but she realizes now that I mean business, and I frankly believe there is some fear as to what I might do. The insults and imprecations cast at me do not disturb my peace - they are good for my humility and self-abasement. I, too, am His needy one in many ways, but I am determined to let Him strip and prune not matter what the instruments used - I must pass through the crucible to be united to Him, and that is what I desire. Believe me, when I tell you, some days I feel like I am almost in open conflict with Satan Himself.

Frankly, this is how I feel - that Satan is using these weak ones as his tools to taunt and disturb my tranquillity. These things do send the blood curdling to your toes, but I have no mastery over that - that is human weakness. When I feel like this I keep praying God to soothe and calm my agitated spirits. He eventually does, but only after He lets me feel my weakness. He knows how to keep His weak child 'neath His Paternal hand, and I love Him much in this. God is very, very near to me, often, very often throughout the day even when I am conversing with others, I feel He is with me, watching over me with His protecting love - and that come what may I need have no fear of anything. I really feel the assurance of His grace and Divine Presence. Proof that this proceeds from God is that when I feel this often all thoughts or distractions are allayed for the time. God is a dear good God, and I wonder now how I lived so far removed from Him interiorly, and how I am yet so far. With Him what can we ever want?

I have a relic crucifix in which I have placed some of the dust of our saintly Founder's remains. This I carry with me constantly as a constant reminder of our Father's spirit which I must inculcate to the utmost in my sisters, and as an assurance of his help. Reverend Mother is to send me a relic of our Mother Foundress which I shall likewise place in my crucifix; On the day of my installation I made the act of Consecration composed by our Mother Mary of the Blessed Sacrament in which she offered herself as the slave of her sisters. They know my needs, my desires, and who more than they from their place of glory in heaven can desire more God's glory in the Institute which they themselves founded? I know my trust is not misplaced.

I never told you but long before you spoke to me of God's possible demand that I assume charge here, I felt that it would be. The thought was most repulsive to me except but for one thing - that God be glorified. God gave me at that time an intense yearning for recollection and union with Him; I saw many things that needed to be improved on, that I felt powerless to do even myself then with the light I had, it was like a pointing out to me of little things that would be more in keeping with our Holy Rule, little things that He desired. Sometimes I felt annoyed at these thoughts, and I used to complain to God for letting me see things I could not remedy, yet withal I felt some day He would ask me. These were trying moments for me because I realized the inevitable which did come. It is a known fact that here the spirit of our Holy Founder is greatest, and with the special designs He has on this place one must expect that His demands and expectations are great. It is a real privilege and joy to be able just to live here - even when I am absent for a day I feel it intensely. I want to be wholly God's - to be lost in His love, this I ceaselessly tell Him. Pray that I may keep faithful in the moments when the cross weighs heavily - some days and some moments the burden seems almost beyond me. I am constantly telling Him that I am only His poor weak child. Your three visits to the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel each day are not forgotten. Strange as it may sound, I seem myself to draw profit from the prayers I utter for you, when I say the Gloria Patri I adore our Sacramental King within you, what I experience I think is the expression of His Good Pleasure. This Father Pyzalski is a lover of the most Blessed Trinity and the Mystical Indwelling - he comes to give our sisters a conference once a month. I am mailing you one of the little books he has written. He could not direct me, because there is a want of understanding, a certain something I cannot quite analyze. However, I did tell him I would read his two books, and tabulate a few points for discussion; I have found two I am not in agreement on - if I lose out in the battle and am not convinced you will probably hear

J. M. J.

St. Patrick Academy,
Mokena, Illinois,
November 15, 1942.

Rev. Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Master of Novices, Claretian Novitiate,
Walnut, California.

Rev. dear Father:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of October 26. Your words of encouragement have been a source of help and inspiration to keep on in the path which our dear Lord seems to wish of me. Your letter, though, was also a source of keen disappointment. I frankly did not know how to take your words to the effect that you had been my former spiritual director. Did you mean that you can no longer continue to keep me as one of your spiritual children? I sincerely hope that such is not the case. However I realize that your time must be very filled with your many duties as Master of Novices but if there is any possibility to continue to help me by your direction, I earnestly beg that privilege of you. I feel that I need your help and that since you know my soul even better than I do myself with all its frailties and weaknesses, its cowardices and failures, you can keep me on the straight path of constantly tending toward perfection. I think you know that is and has been easier for me to express my thoughts in writing rather than to tell them verbally. I feel that I have been deprived of spiritual help both in regard to my confessor and my superior. Father has been so busy that he comes usually only every two weeks and at times, I feel that he is so rushed and so busy that I dislike disturbing him. Whenever, however, I have asked his advice or help, he has been most kind in giving it to me. Last month when Mother was about to begin the directions of the Sisters, I went to her to give her time I could come. She answered me rather non-chalantly that she didn't have to take me since I was a member of the Provincial Council. It was rather hard to take, particularly as I was making an act of submission contrary to my own will in doing so; however, I accepted it as coming from Him Who permitted it. It left me with the feeling, however, that I was left very much alone in my spiritual life, that is alone without exterior help for I know and have felt very strongly the constant help of the Holy Spirit.

You made me realize more keenly, too, the special graces which God has been giving me since our last retreat. At times, I scarcely know myself for under former circumstances I know I would not act as God has been giving me the grace to do. Through it all, however, I have been enjoying the deepest peace and calm of soul along with the ardent longing to give Him all in complete submission and surrender. Our difficulties have increased during the past few weeks and it has seemed there has been just one thing after another. Poor Mother has had a very difficult time of it. God has tried her in every way possible. I am sorry that you have not been near to help her with her heavy share of the cross.

I am glad that you were pleased to receive the retreat notes. I shall be happy to continue to do this little thing for you and shall appreciate this opportunity to show you my appreciation of all you have done for me. I value most highly your memento in daily Holy Sacrifice. I take it that you wish to have the notes of the Sisters' retreats. We are having our childrens' retreat on December 9, 10, and 11. If you wish me to take notes of this, I shall be glad to do so. Father Hofman, a member of the Archdiocese Mission Band is to preach the retreat. He is a very interior and holy priest of God and did much good during the mission he gave here in the fall.

One of the Sisters is copying some sermons given by Father Pyzgaliski, the author of the Daily Adviser and Daily Contemplation for All. I shall include these also.

I have finished reading ~~ABbb~~ Courbon on prayer and the Introduction to the Mystical Life by Lejenne. I have on hand the life of St. Teresa and by "Jacob's Well " By Leen. I have also taken out " The Dark Night of the Senses" of St. John but rather hesitate to read it without permission. I have an extra guard of keeping the girls during our spiritual reading time so I am making my daily readings privately. This does give me an opportunity for more reading than I would have otherwise. I am continuing to beg for the grace of contemplation and am doing all I can in the matter of my daily meditation. At times I think I am accomplishing something and again I feel that I am floundering about trying to resist distractions and I wonder if I really am getting anywhere. However as far as my daily life is concerned, I feel that the special graces I have received would perhaps not have come to me without the effort I have been making. There is one thought that constantly recurs to me during meditation and out of it - the fact that the soul is helpless without the grace of Almighty God and of His great work in us in spite of ourselves. I am continuing my practice of adoration, of complete submission and union of will and intellect to that of Christ. During meditation this thought recurs constantly. Since retreat my devotion to the Eternal Father has increased very much and I love to "contemplate" Him as our good, good, Father Who gives us all. I continue to work on "confidence" for my particular examen but as I have told you before, I wonder if I could not do more than I do. Would you have any special suggestion to give me for Advent? May I have your permission to read the works of St. John of the Cross or am I ready for them yet? If you kindly consent to keep me as one of your spiritual children may I have your permission to write to you once a month?

I was "initiated" into the Provincial Council last Saturday. I feel the heavy responsibility connected thereto and I am deeply humiliated at the deference given the position by the Sisters. May I have your prayers that I may act and do only through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? I have never quite agreed with you in what you tell me of my humility of soul in my dealings with our Lord - yet I do ^{not} mean thereby to doubt your work or your judgment. Such must be the case if you say so but it comes from the grace of the Merciful Heart of Christ. I have always felt that pride was one of my chief faults.

You are remembered daily in my prayers and work. I shall continue to do so. I am deeply grateful to you for all you have done for me and I trust that I may continue to have your help. If you consent to keep me, I promise you complete obedience in all that you will ask of me or suggest to me. May our dear Lord continue to grant you His grace in the formation of the souls entrusted to your care.

Gratefully in Him

Sister Mary Dolores

J. M. J.

NOVITIATE S. S. C. M.

BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

November 21, '42.

Reverend Father Aloysius
Master of Novices
Immaculate Heart Novitiate
Walnut, California.

Dear Father:— If I had written to you every time I thought of you prayerfully, you would have received a letter daily! Yes, those five Gloria said every night for you and your Novices at the foot of the Merciful Love Crucifix (Novitiate Conference Room) in the grand Silence of the Night, are bringing me to a deeper recollection— especially these last three nights since S. Mary Mediatrix has let me read your letter! O Father, how God must love you and how very close you must be to Him to receive such a great privilege. If the miraculous phenomenon repeats itself, will you please give Him one kiss for me, reminding Him that I am all His and that I have abandoned myself completely to His Holy Will to do with me whatever He may choose— could I ask you to daily make this

offering for me in your Mass
8:30 A.M. (our time) - for I also realize
as you do that nothing is greater
nor has more value than the
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!

I almost fear, at times, when
I realize my great joy and
happiness in this life of solitude,
silence and recollection! Will I
never (the) suffer the night of the
Soul which is required (isn't it?)
to reach the transforming Union!
Am I truthful in saying I do
not suffer? O Father, I suffer
constantly, the desire and lon-
guing for giving something pain-
ful from me is intense, yes
my suffering is in not
suffering! Do you think Father
that this is my purification of
Soul that the Lord wants from
me? If so, why don't we read
of this in the writings of St.
John of the Cross? Of St. Teresa (great
vibes)
Yes, she says to suffer or to die,
but she suffered much and
was pleading for more sufferings
but I do not suffer!! Poor
Father, you have heard this from
me so many times. I will, what
God wills, but I sometimes

NOVITIATE S. S. C. M.
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

think that I am not called to that very high degree of Perfection and it saddens me somewhat. Is this Spiritual Envy? Do enlighten me! I shall task the Holy Spirit to enlighten you on your answer to me in this puzzling question.

Sister Mary Mediatrix has gone to Maudens for a few days to help. They are having Confirmation Sun. the 22nd and four Sisters are in bed. She is supposed to return Monday, but I feel something will come up that will prevent it. I wonder if the S.H. will not favor her with some manifestations of some sort.

I forgot to tell you that when she gave me your letter to read, she was thrilled - she certainly ex- seems you highly and is hoping that she will have permission to answer you. It makes it so hard for us to have her thus silenced for she always told me everything. I boldly asked her if she had been aware of your receiving this grace - she did not answer, but

smiled and I knew then that she had been aware of it at the time! Why did you wait a whole month to write about it???

Have you read the article in the New York Herald about the Pope dedicating the Whole World to The Immaculate Heart of Mary? Rev. Mother had us read it in the Dining Room — later S. M. Medkirk told Mother St. Eugene that this had been done through the demand of your General. Are you aware of this? I am enclosing the clipping.

Please Father continue to pray for S. Ursula, for me and for my flock that I may disappear and hide myself in Mary's Holy Heart and let Her, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, lead safely to Profession each and every one of my fledgelings.

We are enclosing a few mass offerings — I have no money for gifts now as I had in Monmouth but money is the least of my worries. Think of us Father & pray for us Sat. Nov. 28th our recollection day that we may prepare to spend a holy Advent getting ready for the coming of our Infant King! Sincerely yours Sister Rose Mary

J. M. J.

Our Lady Academy
Manteno, Illinois

November 24, 1942

Dear Father Aloysius,

Mrs. Brennan was here two weeks ago (for the second time) and told Sr. Monica you had met a Mary Therese Bruel and that God had worked a miracle for you. He are thanking God He has given you a bit of consolation in compensation for all the sacrifices asked of you. Frances (S.M.M.) was here from Thursday evening until yesterday. She accompanied Sr. M. Bernard who replaced Sr. Margaret Mary (slightly ill) at the organ for confirmation. She spoke of you and of how painful it is to be so silent and seemingly ungrateful to all who have had occasion to deal with her. I believe she is asking permission to write you at least a friendly letter.

I am still in bed (my sixth week). One of the first things Frances asked me was whether I had mentioned anything yet about my back. She told me to do so. She is not only restricted in what she says but also in what she listens to, however she thought I could tell her of a couple graces which I would mention to Mother Rose Mary or Mother St. Eugene were they here. That could be considered not too personal. I ran her statement ^(to mention my carelessness in the back) and from a grace I received on the feast of St. Theresa I have concluded

promotes radi glory more is what I am asking for. Dr. Ignatius is being operated on Wednesday the 25th. To all appearances she is concave and is asking God to let her die. Mother will probably write you later about results. Gratefully lists Mary Catherine's Verint you happy to have the world concentrated to the immaculate heart of Mary?

that my hour is at hand. I could not go to Mass or Holy Communion on the 15th because of my ankles and as I lay abed (in Frances room) making my meditation I felt the presence of Our Father and St. Catherine for a few seconds and felt they both promised to see me through. When Frances told me to mention my back the promise took on more meaning. I am a terrible coward and very averse to letting doctors and nurses do as they see fit. It took me some little meditation to say, "Anything you want." The next morning at meditation and Holy Communion I again told Our Lord I would try to be very docile and submit my body to any medical care or surgery that might be advised, and God the Father sent these words through my soul. "I will care for you as tenderly as any mother could care for her child." I really felt protected. I told Mother Mary about my ailment and Sunday she told Rev. Mother. I now wait for Dr. Phipps to have his say. I am praying for strength to accept all that may come. I realize the necessity of this kind of thing as a preparation for my final end. How will I ever extend hands and feet to the wicked if I cannot permit the good to do for my welfare? Also I realize that God does me great honor in asking to use my body that he may glorify Himself in the miraculous power he will bestow on Our Father. I wanted you to know this so you could thank God for His goodness and ask gracious submission for me or strength to bear the humiliation my own aversion would bring me. Whichever way